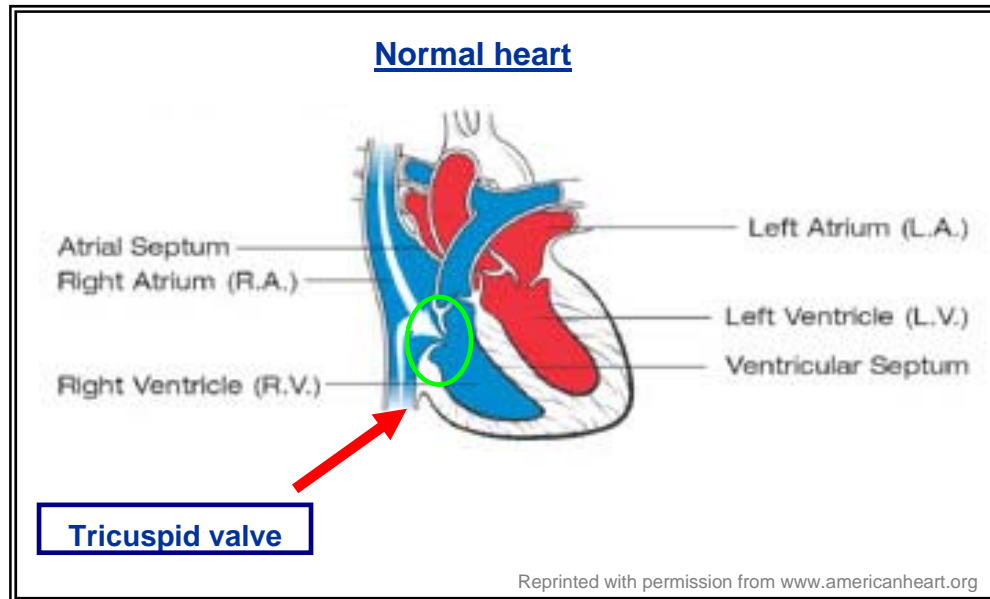


Ebstein's Anomaly

What is Ebstein's anomaly?

Ebstein's anomaly is a heart defect involving the **tricuspid valve** (opening between the upper and lower chambers of the right side of the heart). The tricuspid valve is abnormal and lower than it should be, leading to a smaller **right ventricle** (lower chamber of the heart). The abnormal valve allows a large amount of blood to flow backwards from the right ventricle to the **right atrium** (upper chamber of the heart).



What causes Ebstein's anomaly?

Currently, the exact cause of Ebstein's anomaly is not known. Heredity likely plays a role in the development of all heart defects, meaning that if someone had a congenital heart defect, he or she has an increased chance of having a child with a heart defect. Ebstein's anomaly is also more common in children whose mothers took **lithium** during pregnancy.

How is Ebstein's anomaly treated?

For most individuals with Ebstein's anomaly, surgical correction is not required. However, if the tricuspid valve is leaking too much, surgery may be necessary to repair the valve.

For more information

American Heart Association - <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=11105>

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center's Heart Center Encyclopedia -

<http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/health/heart-encyclopedia/default.htm>

MedlinePlus - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/congenitalheartdefects.html>

National Heart Lung and Blood Institute - http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/dci/Diseases/chd/chd_what.html

Sources: Cincinnati Children's Hospital, American Heart Association